healthcare facilities have beds for providing a plurality of types of medical care and further wherein the bed availability information is input into the database and is accessible by the computer network;

providing a first access to the database for determining the available bed for the patient availability information by the user of the database;

inputting a medical condition of the user patient into the database;

searching the bed availability information for the plurality of healthcare facilities in the database;

matching the medical condition of the patient in the database to one of the types of medical care to obtain the bed availability information of the plurality of healthcare facilities based on each of the plurality of healthcare facilities having beds for providing one of the types of medical care to treat the medical condition of the patient; and

determining the available bed availability in the plurality of healthcare facilities for the user patient with the medical condition from the bed availability information based upon the medical condition of the user patient in the database.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

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providing the database on the network wherein access to the database is via the network.

Claim 3 (original):   The method of Claim 1 wherein the network is the internet.

Claim 4 (original):   The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

contacting one of the healthcare facilities after retrieving information about the healthcare facility.

Claim 5 (original):   The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a remote server; and

storing the database on the remote server.

Claim 6 (original):   The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a second access to the database wherein an extended care or a healthcare facility having beds enters the bed availability information into the database via the second access.

Claim 7 (original):   The method of Claim 1 wherein an individual healthcare facility accesses the database to input the bed availability information for the individual healthcare facility.

Claim 8 (original):   The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of empty beds

available.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes types of empty beds available.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing an internet-enabled form on a website for accessing the remote database and inputting information into the database.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A system for storing and accessing bed availability information to a user wherein the bed availability information includes information for a plurality of healthcare facilities wherein each of the plurality of healthcare facilities has a plurality of beds and receives a patient if a bed is available, the system comprising:

a computer network;

a database associated with the computer network;

means for inputting bed availability information of a plurality of healthcare facilities into the database;

means for accessing the bed availability information and retrieving the bed availability information from the database

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via the computer network;

means for inputting information of ~~about~~ the patient into a form via the computer network wherein the information of ~~about~~ the patient is stored in the database;

means for searching the database for the bed availability information of the plurality of healthcare facilities;

means for comparing the information of the patient in the database to the bed availability information in the database to obtain each of the plurality of healthcare facilities for treating the patient; and

means for determining if a bed in the plurality of beds at each of the plurality of healthcare facilities for treating the patient is available based on the information of ~~about~~ the patient in the database.

Claim 15 (original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of beds available.

Claim 16 (original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes types of beds available.

Claim 17 (original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes a projection of expected availability of beds at a facility in a specified time frame.

Claim 18 (original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a remote server wherein the database is contained on the

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remote server; and

a website providing access to the database.

Claim 19 (original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

means for accessing the database wherein an individual healthcare facility enters the bed availability into the database.

Claim 20 (canceled)